

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please insert the following paragraph after the title on page 1:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,840, issued July 1, 2003, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,206, issued December 21, 1999, both of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 15 as follows:

A DCS 110 for use in the network of Figure 1 is illustrated in Figure 2. The DCS 110 includes a storage unit 201 for storing real-time data received from one or more data sources, for example, data sources 104-106 shown in Figure 1. A data processor ~~201~~202 automatically formats the real-time data to include a network header field (for example, a sequence number used by the network 120 to route the data to the client site terminals) and a data source identifier field for identifying the source of the data and the DCS that processes the data (see Figure 4). The formatted real-time data is then temporarily stored in storage 205 and transmitted by transmitter 206 onto the network 120 for delivery to client site terminals, e.g., client site terminals 130-133 of Figure 1.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A communications network incorporating a data health monitor is provided that includes a plurality of data sources, a plurality of data collection systems, a client site terminal and a network connecting these components. Each data collection system includes a processor for receiving and formatting data received from ~~said the~~ data sources, wherein the formatted data has a data field including a first data source identifier identifying the data source of ~~said the~~ formatted data and a first system identifier identifying the data collection system formatting ~~said the~~ formatted data. The data collection systems also include a status code generator for generating and transmitting a status code, ~~wherein the status code generator automatically updates the status code when the operating status of a corresponding data source changes;~~ and a heartbeat signal generator for generating and periodically transmitting a heartbeat signal. ~~The client site terminal includes a processor for receiving the formatted data, the heartbeat signal and the status codes which it processes to determine whether there is a problem in the receipt of the data which prevents the terminal's receipt of the data in real time. The~~ Based on information in data fields, status codes, and heartbeat signals, client site terminals ~~then selects a real-time or stale display mode for displaying the data, and a display displays the data in accordance with the selected real time or stale display mode.~~

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the above claims as amended prior to an examination on the merits of the present application. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled. New claims 16-58 have been added.

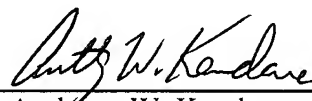
Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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